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STATINTL

'Spy' Pilot's Dad Writes Khrushchev

NORTON, Va., May 19 (AP) — The father of the American pilot held by Soviet Russia said he was writing to Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev today "as one father to another" asking for his son's release.

Oliver W. Powers of Pound, who operates a shoe repair shop in this southwest Virginia town, said he would airmail this plea:

"My Dear Mr. Khrushchev:
"I extend to you and Mrs. Khrushchev my regards as one parent to another. Pilot Francis Powers is my only son.

"I am asking you to be lenient with him in your dealings with him. He has always been a fine young man and we love him very much.

"As one father to another I plead with you to let him come home as soon as you can find it in your heart to do so that he may be with us a while longer.

"Please give him this note from his mother enclosed in this letter.

"P. S.—I would appreciate it very much if you would reply as soon as possible."

Francis Powers, 30, was taken into custody by the Russians May 1. The Soviets said they shot down his plane during a spying mission over the Urals.